Probe International

Investigators Ltd.



All Types of Investigations 493

534 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202 Telephone 716/881-6031

June 8, 1979

George Gellman c/o Consolidated Bowling Corporation 880 Military Road Niagara Falls, New York 14304

Re: Pine Bowl

Dear Mr. Gellman:

This report supplements our initial report to you dated May 10, 1979 relative to investigation on this file:

On May 9, 1979, you and I reviewed this matter at which time I indicated that I would be forwarding a report to date. You told me, at that time, that you had spoken with various state agencies and that "no serious health hazard existed at that time". You indicated no action was to be taken and indicated that there was a 60% chance that the problem would clear up. You did indicate though that we should complete the investigation talking with several of the people whose names we had discussed earlier, and we should take the "no danger approach" with them. You advised me at that time to make no further contacts with the State Health Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation and talk with only certain designated people.

On May 16 1979 I attempted to contact Gideon Frishman, Nobody was home at the Frishman residence at 7:00 PM.

On May 23, I checked the Frishman residence at 6:00 PM but again no one was home. I checked with neighbors but no one seemed to know when I could find Mr. Frishman at the residence.

On May 31, 1979, I traveled to the Frishman residence once again, on this occasion contacting Gideon Frishman. Gideon is a young man, in his 30's, and makes a good appearance. I obtained a short stenographic statement from him but we are not transcribing it as it was really of no value to us. He didn't know anything at all about the situation at the Pine Bowl indicating he did not start working for his father until 1970. He knew nothing about the original construction of the alley and indicated he managed the lanes at one time just for a brief while. He did advise though that his father, Isaac Frishman, is presently living in on a permanent basis, since the spring and summer has arrived. He refused to give me his father's unlisted home phone number but provided me his father's business number in Niagara Falls as 297-5798. If you determine that you want Mr. Frishman's statement,

Licensed Private Investigators
William P. Zenosky
Evan P. Kenner

that is Gideon's, we can transcribe it as a negative type interview. Just advise and we will do so.

While at the young Mr. Frishman's home, I requested he call his father. He did so and I subsequently was able to talk to Mr. Frishman over the phone. Mr. Frishman speaks with an extremely heavy accent and I obtained some of the following information from him in our phone conversation.

He indicated to me that he built the car agency, originally a Volkswagon agency, in 1960, and in 1962 put in the bowling alley and the parking lot. Initially, he believed Durance Paving did the work, but after some questioning, he settled on the fact that United Paving owned by Mike Seprelli was responsible for the paving Mr. Frishman indicated it was a dark gray stone type material, and he himself did not purchase any of this from the quarries. He states the contractor who did the paving_supplied the stones. He did not recognize the name Friona, or Frangione. He believed, as stated earlier, Durance did it initially; the boss at Durance at that time was Vince Ferina. He indicates he has seen Vince Ferina recently, and he presently works somewhere in Grand Island. He indicated when he did the parking lot area, he paid by the square yard including fill. He questioned as to whether or not the same fill was used under the concrete floor of the bowling alley itself. After some discussion, as stated earlier in this report, he realized that it was United Paving under Mike Seprelli who did the work, and that he used Durance Paving and Vince Ferina in the later years. He indicated I could come up to his office and talk to him further about this, if I would call for an appointment. Since our last discussion on June 6, 1979, and your informing me that the matter is serious once again, I will schedule an appointment in an attempt to obtain a statement from Mr. Frishman.

On June 4, 1979, I traveled to Niagara Falls, New York, attempting first to locate Clarence Frangione at his home on He was not available at 6:15 PM and I left a card with his son seeing that I had been there on so many other occasions and had not been able to find him.

I next traveled to the home of John Friona, and subsequently met with him and obtained a statement from him. Mr. Friona is a subsequently met with him and obtained a statement and makes a nice appearance. He indicated to me he had spoken with Bruno Scrufari regarding this matter and claims he personally went over and inspected the slag at the alleys. He claimed he could not identify it positively. He indicates that back in the early 1960's C. A. Hackett Company and Friona Trucking had a deal with Union Carbide regarding removal of the slag. The main deal, he indicated, was between Hackett and Union Carbide, and that they did work through Hackett relative to this dispursing of slag. What was interesting is that he stated that from 1955 or 1956 thru the time period you are interested in they had this deal with Union Carbide and Hackett and were using the 56th Street and Pine Street dump which is presently the Newco Dump. He indicated that it is his recollection that

Union Carbide isolated some slag that was radioactive and it was buried approximately & mile from where the other slag was dumped. It was his belief that Bruno Scrufari had dug the hole and he himself put the radioactive slag in it, with his own equipment. He indicated this area was fenced off and marked with cable and that he did not think any contamination of the other slag could have come from radioactive material. He referred me to a gentleman by the name of Harold Heinrich who was the Superintendent at Union Carbide at the time. He thought Mr. Heinrich was presently residing on on attempt to get a statement from Mr. Heinrich. Mr. Friona referred to the slag as Ferro Chrome slag and seemed to think that this was the type he was selling at the time. He also mentioned slag coming from the old Bury Plant and mentioned a trucking firm owned by Wally McCardle (Walter's Trucking). If my recollection serves me right, he told me that Mr. McCardle is either very old or has passed on. I will forward to you the transcript of my discussion with Mr. Friona shortly.

As stated earlier, we spoke on June 6 and you indicated we should continue on with the investigation.

On June 6, 1979, I received a phone call from Clarence Frangione and we discussed the situation involving Pine Bowl, etc. for a short period. Mr. Frangione seemed very cooperative and indicated he would look up all his old records and get back to me and we could set up an appointment and discuss this further. The following pertains to our phone conversation on June 6:

He advised me that he recalled the building of Pine Bowl and that the general contractor was Mr. Frishman. The paving of the parking lot and the fill was handled by United Paving, Mike Seprelli. He himself indicated that he worked for both Seprelli and Frishman during this construction, with his truck. During that time, he brought bank-run gravel in from his own gravel pit, and purchased or trucked other slag from Pittsburgh Metalurgical on Highland and College Avenues in Niagara Falls. The slag from Pittsburgh Metalurgical was from iron products that they were producing. He also recalled using some slag lime for the parking lot and the building indicating that the slag with lime was very cheap and that's why it was used, and that the hole base for both the alleys and the parking was a mixture of all three types of slag that he mentioned. The lime slag came from the old Vanadium Plant.

He indicated to me that to his knowledge Pittsburgh Metalurgical had stock piles of radioactive materials at their Lockport Road dump. It was his recollection that they would pick up raw iron ore at this dump and bring it over to the plant for processing and then would, upon completion of the process, pick the slag up at the plant and take it back possibly to the dump. He then started mentioning that they mixed iron ore at the plant, the slag came at the plant, and they could have mixed the slag with chromium magnesium steel, and a problem might have occurred. I really did not follow him too closely in this area but will speak to him again. He indicates that Pittsburgh Metalurgical is now Airco Alloys in Niagara Falls.

He then started talking about that he was never paid for his trucking indicating that even though the lien showed satisfaction back then, he never got the check indicating the check was going supposed to sign it and turn it over to him. He never did get the check after making stops at the attorney's office for 2 weeks straight and never meeting up with the other two parties. He our conversation on the phone which brought a new possibility for would get back together after he had a chance to look up some of merchandise and where he took it.

I will be forwarding to you our bill for services rendered to date shortly along with Mr. Friona's statement and possibly whatever further work I have done on this file. As discussed, it is now once again a priority matter to me and I will complete investigation and be in touch with you more often in the future.

Thank you for referring this matter to us.

Respectfully yours,

Evan P. Kenner

EPK:sm

Probe International Investigators Ltd.



All Types of Investigations

534 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14202 Telephone 716/881-6031

May 10, 1979

Anthus Poul

George Gellman c/o Consolidated Bowling Corporation 880 Military Road Niagara Falls, New York 14304

Regarding: Pine Bowl

Dear Mr. Gellman:

The following report pertains to investigation work done to date relative to the above matter.

On April 26, 1979, I met with you at your home in Amherst at which time we discussed this matter in detail and you provided me various notes relative to the investigation.

On April 30, 1979, I reviewed the notes thoroughly, wrote them up for our investigative purposes, and made assignments to investigator Lewis Barone of our office to begin investigative services.

On that same date I spoke with you and you indicated that until May 10, 1979, we should not speak to too many people who have not already been spoken to as your league would end on that date.

On May 3, 1979, I was able to contact a long time personal friend who is a physicist at a large corporation in the Buffalo-Niagara Falls area. After briefing him as to the problem, and providing him with the chemical composition from Frontier Analysis that had been provided to me, he proceeded to give me some background information relative to his thoughts and subsequently was to call me back after he did some questioning and research into the matter. The following pertains:

My source indicated to me that radioactivity must come from a particular starting material. You can not generate a radioactive material through a regular chemical process unless the starting materials had inherent radioactivity in them. This particular statement clarified our original discussion whereupon you thought possibly Union Carbide, had produced a bad batch of slag and had not taken the radioactivity out of it. My source indicated that the half-life of a substance is how long it takes for half of a particular radioactive material to disappear. Columbium could have 4 to 5 different isotopes, each one still columbium, but each

having different quantities of neutrons and protons in the nucleus. There are 5 basic isotopes, and they are differentiated between the distribution of protons and neutrons in the core. For example, uranium 235 (U-235) and uranium 238 (U-238) are 2 similar substances, but you can not tell one from the other. The difference is that one has more neutrons than the other, one is safe, the other one can be used to make an atomic bomb. Many isotopes have a half-life of one day, some have a half life of one million years. The half-life of different radioactive substances are inherintly built into nature and we have learned to live with them.

My source gave me some basic thoughts on how to make a radioactive The following pertains: If you subject certain products material. to a radioactive or atomic pile you can make a radioactive substance. For example, if columbium accepted a neutron you would have an isotope, possibly unstable, and this will give off radioactivity. It was my source's thought that Union Carbide did not in the early 1960's, and presently does not, have the ability to make radioactive substances. He does not think they ever had access to an atomic pile. does think, is that they may have at one time purchased radioactive materials, knew about the radioactive materials, and made a product My source indicates that you do not know a material is with it. radioactive unless you test for it. You can not tell the difference by looking at it, but he indicates a highly radioactive substance could burn your hands if you held it. Some questions he had were as follows:

Did Union Carbidehave the ability in 1962 to radiate substances, or could they purchase material with radioactivity in it and were they aware of it.

It was my sources thought and knowledge that at one time Union Carbide produced products and worked heavily with the atomic energy commission. They may have, at that time, been purifying or concentrating highly radioactive materials. They could have during this process used Ferro-Columbium to be moderators and absorb the radiation to protect other products. This in turn could have made the slag biproduct produced in the chemical process radioactive. Columbium itself has very high temperature capabilities and our source wondered if some outside source had possibly subjected the Union Carbide product or biproduct to radiation prior to or after the process. Again, he indicated that you can not make or destroy radioactive compounds by a chemical process alone.

On the same date, May 3, subsequent to my second conversation with my source, I spoke to Joe Oset from your office, at which time he provided me some information as to the atomic composition of the slag. He related to me that it showed Potassium, 1.0 specific radioactivity, Nanocures per gram. The specific radioactivity was .038 Nanocures per gram. He, also, indicated that the person who at one time worked for Union Carbide, who we spoke with and positively identified the slag from your parking lot as Ferro-Columbium slag, has a first name of "Woody" but Joe indicated this person wished to remain out of the lime light until such time as we needed him. You will have to speak with Mr. Oset if we are to obtain more information on this gentleman and be able to interview him.

I subsequently, on May 3, was able to talk to my source again, and the following new information was provided to me:

Source indicated that during World War II Union Carbide was purifying Uranium for the Federal government. It is possible that they were dumping residue, in the same area that they later dumped the Ferro-Columbium slag. If it was produced in the same basic area or dumped in the same basic area where they had purified the uranium, the slag in your parking lot could have obtained radioactivity from just being present in this area. My source did not believe that Ferro-Columbium is radioactive as such, but possibly had been contaminated. He suggested that Frontier Analysis check your slag for uranium content, indicating it would most probably be in a small amount, parts per million.

He next mentioned the substance potassium 40, which he stated is radioactive and, also, could be the culprit involved. Potassium 40 is a naturally occurring material and number 40 appears in small amounts in all types of potassium. He suggested that possibly the DEC was measuring the radioactivity in the slag from the potassium 40 which is a "gamma emitter".

Source indicated that Ferro-Columbium is used as an additive to harden steel. He indicated you would take impure iron oxide and impure Columbium materials, mix it with, for example, calcium oxide, etc., pottassium carbinate, it would be heated in the furnace and the product would then fall to the bottom as it was quite heavy. The slag would float on top and it would be dumped off or skimmed off. He suggested that we attempt to get materials in the furnace that produces the products that has potassium in it and run a radioactivity test on this particular substance.

My source indicated the 2 possible sources that he could see for radioactivity would be: Number one, potassium 40, and number 2, the old World War II uranium impurity contamination. He suggested that Frontier Analysis take any bottle of a potassium compound and measure the radioactivity and you would find some present.

On May 3, 1979, I attempted to obtain a statement from Clarence Franjoine at his home, His daughter stated he was out at the present but would be back in a few hours. I checked back one hour later, 7 p.m., but he was still not home. She advised us to check to see him before noon or usually at supper time.

On May 8, 1979, I attempted to contact Mr. Franjoine at 4:30 p.m. and spoke with his son, Alfred, who stated the father was in Erie, Pennsylvania, for the day. He stated his father is usually home until 11 a.m. or at supper time. He indicated his father was still in the trucking business, owning 5 to 6 trucks. His father had spoken to him regarding the Pine Bowl, and trucking in all the gravel. His son, also, related to me the story about him being stiffed for \$4 to 5,000, but I explained the situation properly to him. Alfred Franjoine was quite friendly, and indicated we should just call his father and set up an appointment to see him again.

You might, also, note, that on May 8, 1979, I heard on the radio some reports relative to the silo in Lewiston, New York, that was leaking some radioactivity at the presnt time having to do with the Manhattan Project, back during World War II. This could very well tie in to the purifying of the uranium by Union Carbide back many years ago for the government. We will look into this further.

To date, this is all that I personally have done on the file, withholding any further contacts with some of the more important people until after your designated date of May 10.

We have, though, done extensive interviewing of people who's names we had and some new leads, in the Niagara Falls area on May 3 and May 7, 1979. This interviewing was done verbally, without the presence of a stenographer, and was conducted by investigator Lewis Barone of our office. Mr. Barone had been a police detective and lieutenant for 15 years and is presently working for our agency. I felt that along with his many years experience in interviewing people, the fact that he was would certainly help in many of the contacts he would be making in the Niagara Falls area.

The following is relative to Mr. Barone's interviews with the various individuals:

At approximately 9 a.m. on May 3, investigator Barone departed the Buffalo office and travelled to Niagara Falls, attempting to locate Merit Paving on Henry Street. At 9:45 a.m. he located the paving company located off of Pine Avenue and 56th Street. There he was able to talk to a secretary and obtained some background information. He subsequently interviewed a gentleman by the name of LaVay Melnot, an employee of the corporation. The results of the interview will follows this description of his day's work. Charlie Chippone was out of town and would not be able to be interviewed that day.

Upon completion there, investigator Barone drove to 4011 Hyde Park Boulevard, Niagara Falls, and interviewed William McCabe of McCabe & Corcoran Electrical Company. The results of this interview will follow.

At 1:05 p.m. he travelled to to interview Bruno Scrufarri, and was informed Mr. Scrufarri was out of town for the day and could be contacted at a later date.

At 1:30 p.m. he travelled to subject was not at home at that time.

At 2:05 p.m. he went to 10th Street, County Hall, to look for information relative to various individuals. He was informed that he would have to go to the Niagara County offices in Lockport for background information.

At 2:45 p.m. he drove to and interviewed Armand Cerrone, another Niagara Falls contractor, the results of this interview will follow.

At 4 p.m. that date he travelled to

and attempted

to locate a gentleman by the name of Charles Caruso, who supposedly was Isacc Frischman's partner at the time Pine Bowl was built. He was not available and we will interview him at a later date.

At 4:30 p.m. he checked once again for Mr. Johnson but he was still not home.

At 5 p.m. that date investigator Barone returned home and prepared his reports.

The following pertains to interviews as mentioned earlier: LaVay Melnot, phone

He indicated that the Union Carbide Company had dumped all their slag in a dump that is now called the Newco Company, which according to Mr. Melnot is presently under investigation by the state. Regarding Philip and Nazarino Friona, he indicated they ran a trucking company in the early 1960's and their only job was to haul waste and slag from the Union Carbide grounds to the Union Carbide dump. He stated that United Paving Company and United Roadway were the same outfit and both were presently out of business and operated by Michael Seprelli. Seprelli presently is living in the He indicated that any slag removed from Union Carbide would not have been treated in any special way. The only use for the slag was lay and fill. He stated that Phil Friona died approximately 9 years ago and his brother, Nazarino lived in the and recently has remarried. He, also, stated that he thought Friona Trucking is presently out of business. He did not know whether or not Union Carbide slag was actually used at Pine Bowl, and did not know who paved the lot but knew that Merit didn't pave it nor did they ever use any Union Carbide slag.

The following pertains to the interview of Armand Cerrone, phone

In 1962 he indicates that there were only 3 places to get slag, Union Carbide, Arco Alloy or Buffalo Slag. He indicated Friona Trucking had exclusive rights with Union Carbide to haul their waste and slag to the At that time, if you wanted Union Carbide slag, you had to buy it through Friona Trucking Company. You could go to the dumps and they would load your truck or they would deliver it for you. Union Carbide slag would not have to be crushed to use for fill as a bulldozer would crush it enough to use it as it was. This would seem to let out C. A. Hackett Company as crushers of the slag. He indicated that all slag was sold through this Friona Brothers, and no business was done with <u>Union Carbide.</u> He advised investigator to talk with Vince Friona, who did a lot of paving back in the early 1960's. He didn't do the Pine Bowl lot and didn't know who was the paving contractor. He did not know if Union Carbide slag was used in the parking lot. He stated that he knew Michael Seprelli and Seprelli was presently living in He stated that this man was no good and was a shady operator.

The following pertains to the interview of William McCabe of William McCabe.

He indicated that they had done all the electrical work at Pine Bowl and

advised investigator that Isacc Frischman had a partner, Charles Caruso. Caruso now operates the Tenderloin Restaurant, 1124 Main Street, Niagara Falls. He stated that Frischman had a lot of real estate in the Falls and flew back and forth from Florida almost on a weekly basis. He stated that the parking lot of the 93rd Street School was also radio-active and advised investigator to talk with Armand Cerrone who's interview was already mentioned. He did not know where the slag came from that was used in the Pine Bowl or who paved the lot and advised us to talk with a Mr. Marchetti who was the general contractor on the job.

The following pertains to investigator Barone's interviews in Niagara Falls on May 7, 1979:

At 12:30 p.m. this date Mr. Barone departed the Buffalo area driving to Niagara Falls going to the address, and spoke with Joe Johnson's son at approximately 1:15 p.m. He advised investigator that the father would be home later that day. At 1:30 p.m. he drove to to interview Mr. Scrufarri, but was advised Scrufarri was in Florida and would not return until Thursday of that week. At 2 p.m. he drove to and interviewed Charles Caruso's wife, Jewel, her interview will follow.

At 3:10 p.m. he drove to 723 l6th Street to interview Angelo Marchetti, and was advised Mr. Marchetti would be back in approximately one hour. At 3:30 p.m. that day he drove to the Niagara Falls Police for information on Michael Seprelli. A report will follow.

At 4:30 p.m. he returned to 723 16th Street, the offices of Monteleone & Marchetti Contractors and interviewed Angelo Marchetti, a report will follow.

At 5:40 p.m. he travelled to follow. and interviewed Vince Farina. The interview will follow.

At 6:35 p.m. investigator Barone went to and interviewed Joseph Seprelli, sone of Michael Seprelli. The results of that interview will follow.

At 7:40 p.m. investigator travelled to mean and was able to interview Joseph Johnson. A report will follow.

At 8:10 p.m. he returned to the Buffalo office, prepared his reports and completed assignments for the day.

The following pertains to the aforementioned interviews:

Vince Farina,

Durance Paving Company and had paved some of the parking lot area at the bowling alleys. He indicated he only paved some of the lot and that the fill was already in when he paved it. He was aware that Michael Seprelli, also, paved there because the Internal Revenue Service had ceased all of Seprelli's equipment and sold it at auction. Mr. Farina had bid on one of the rollers that was still parked behind the bowling alleys (Pine Bowl). He indicated he knew that Union Carbide slag was used in the Twin Fair parking lot on Packard Road and Lockport Road in

Niagara Falls and possibly we should check to see if there is any radioactivity there. He indicated he used Union Carbide slag on many jobs
but didn't like it because it had so much lime in it which subsequently
caused the blacktop to rise and break up when the lime got wet and hot.
He indicated he used Union Carbide slag at Michael's Pizzeria on Pine
Avenue and Hyde Park and because of the lime had to redo it. He advised talking to Willie McClendon,
phone who did a lot of work in the Niagara Falls area during
the time period in question.

The following pertains to investigator's visit to the Niagara Falls

City Police Records Department. Michael Seprelli's date of birth is

and is presently age He showed no

and had resided at until approximately 10 years ago.

He is believed to be in business and living in the present time. He has a son, John, residing at and presently operates a paving company called Universal Paving.

The following pertains to interview of Angelo Marchetti,
He stated his partner, Mr. Monteleone approximately 5 years ago and really knew more about the Pine Bowl job than he did. He stated that he could tell by looking at the slag where it came from. He indicated that slag was only in the parking lot, and was confident that the only material under the building itself is clay. He stated that half the parking lots in the Falls have Union Carbide slag under it and that he has it under the driveway at his home. He indicated he was quite sure that Michael Seprelli had paved the parking lot, and that in 1962 Union Carbide slag was the cheapest fill so he felt Frischman would have used this. He indicated he knew that Union Carbide slag was used in the King's Plaza on Military Road across from John's Flaming Hearth. He, also, indicated that Union Carbide slag contained a lot of lime and would explode or rise up in the parking lot when it got hot.

Jewel and her husband, Charles, were alleged to be partners in the Pine Bowl with Isaac Frischman, however, Jewel stated that her and her husband in 1962 only leased the bar and restaurant from a Louis Rosenberg of New York City who either had bought it or leased it from Mr. Frischman. The Caruso's had no business dealings with Frischman and only knew him by sight. She did not know who paved the parking lot, only knowing that Angelo Marchetti was the contractor. She indicated her husband is presently in a having had several and she presently operates the Tenderloin Restaurant at 1124 Main Street. She indicated that her husband and her only worked and ran the restaurant and bar operation at Pine Bowl for approximately 6 months.

The following pertains to the interview of Joseph Johnson,

He indicated that he was in the paving business in 1962 but did not have anything to do with the paving at Pine Bowl. In 1962 slag to his recollection was obtained from Union Carbide, Airco Alloy and the Olberry Company. He thought that Seprelli had paved the Pine Bowl and advised us to talk with a Walter Kozdarnski, a large trucking firm on Pine Avenue and 66th Street who may have hauled some of the slag. He indicated he knew that a lot of Union Carbide slag was used in 1962 but didn't know where it came from or where it was used. He really was

not much help.

The following pertains to the interview of John Seprelli, phone

John is Michael Seprelli's son and works for his father
when they did the work for Pine Bowl. He now owns Universal Paving
Company and indicated he did not think they used any slag on this
particular job. The slag was brought in by someone else and they
covered it with gravel and stone from Niagara Stone Company and then
blacktopped the lot. He stated that his father was presently living
in the but would not give us the address or phone number. However, investigator Barone was able to talk to Michael Seprelli on the
phone. We did observe John dial area code we missed the next 3
digits on the phone but then picked up the last digits of the living
his conversation with the elder Seprelli, investigator was informed
that the story his son provided was correct. Evidently Isaac Frischman
had someone fill the low spots with slag and then they came in and
finished the job with stone, gravel and blacktop.

To date, that is the extent of our contacts and interviews. Upon your review of this report, please advise if there are any specific areas you wish us to look into that have already been mentioned, or any areas you wish us to expand upon. Investigator Barone advised me that there are at least 6 to 7 other persons he can interview in the Niagara Falls area relating to this, and I have background information and people still to interview and attempt statements on this file.

Please get in touch with me after you have had opportunity to review this to date, noting that I will still pursue Mr. Franjoine, will make some contacts now with the DEC and State Health Department and continue on with my end of the investigation. You might note, that Mr. Oset was supposed to send me a formal copy of Frontier Analysis findings, but to date I have not received them.

Thank you for referring this matter to us. I will be forwarding to you our bill for services rendered to date shortly.

Respectfully/yours,

Evan P. Kenner

EPK:jm